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NURSING IN MISSION STATIONS



[This department has a two-fold purpose,—to keep nurses in this country in touch with the work of missionary nurses, and to put missionary nurses in touch with each other, for an interchange of ideas, questions, and suggestions. All nurses engaged in mission work, of every creed and country, are invited to contribute to its columns.]

THE RECENT RIOTS IN CHANGSHA

By NINA D. GAGE

Graduate of Roosevelt Hospital, New York, Missionary Nurse, Yale Mission Hospital, Changsha, China

THERE is a saying in the east that one's experience of life in the Orient is not complete without going through a riot or having typhoid fever.¹ The recent riots in Changsha, the capitol of the province of Hunan, China, helped to complete the experience of a good many people.

There had been rumors of trouble for sometime previous to the final outbreak. The gentry,—a rich and influential, but always anti-progressive class, in Hunan,—had for several months been trying to get a corner in rice, in quite a western fashion. Thus the price had been going up until the people were starving. Recourse to the officials proving of no avail, they took matters into their own hands and looted all the rice shops in the city.

On the night of the 13th of April, about ten thousand people started to get the wherewithal to satisfy their hunger. At first they seemed to think of nothing else. They knocked at our hospital gate, and when there was a slight delay in opening it, broke it down, and demanded lights. Then they came across the street to our compound, the gate of which was opened at once. Being furnished with more lights, they looted a rice shop across the street, and then went quietly on, leaving us sleeping.

Later in the night, having obtained a goodly booty, many of these people tried to leave the city, but in spite of rumors to the contrary, the city gates were locked until dawn, according to the usual custom. The people now became more excited, and having been fired on at the Gover-

¹In a note accompanying her article, Miss Gage explains that she would have sent the account earlier, but that she had been having typhoid since the riots! The note is dated July 15, and it is to be hoped that she is now actively at work again, as no further trouble has been reported from Changsha.

nor's yamen, or official residence, responded eagerly to a suggestion to plunder foreigners, thus causing trouble with higher authorities for these officials who gave no redress.

Luckily the foreigners escaped to the wall, where they hid until daylight, when they could slip out of the city gates to the steamers which, fortunately, were in port.

All that day we staid on the steamer, watching for our friends to leave the city, one by one, and following the progress of the rioters by the fires they started. From one side of the city to the other the mob went, looting and burning various missions, business houses, yamens, and finally the Chinese custom house.

Our hospital had just received from home a supply of foreign beds and linen, to replace Chinese beds, which had so far been used. This the Chinese doctor scattered in small lots in the houses of different loyal Chinese. The patients were taken to their homes, as there was, fortunately, no one desperately ill in the hospital at that time.

After a time, rice was imported, and things grew quieter, so that men were able to go into the city for business by day, sleeping in house-boats. As things are still quiet, we hope that women and children will soon be permitted to return.

One curious fact, explained possibly by a guiding authority in the rioting, or by the feeling of the people themselves toward foreign medical work, is that none of the three hospitals in the city was injured. Two out of three of the missions running them were burned, but the hospitals were spared. When the work was reopened, the influx of patients was enormous and has continued so, so we feel that some of our work, at least, is appreciated.

MEDICAL MISSIONARY WORK AMONG THE ZULUS OF NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA

By J. B. McCORD, M.D.

“WANTED—A good all-round nurse who will also be a missionary,” is a common cry from the medical work on a mission field. That is our need to-day in our medical work among the Zulus in Natal.

The Zulus are now awakening to the value of the white man's medicine and mode of treatment. For ages they have believed that sickness was the result of evil spirits, of witchcraft, or of poisons, and the sick man was submitted to the tender mercies of the witch-doctor. Violent emesis and purging, to get rid of the evil spirits in the stomach, were